

## NOTES AND NEWS.

HEREAFTER, until further notice, 'THE AUK' will be issued from Cambridge, Mass., instead of from New York, its distribution having been placed in the hands of Mr. E. W. Wheeler, who for many years past has been 'The Auk' printer, to whom communications concerning subscriptions should be sent, addressed, Edward W. Wheeler, Printer and Publisher, 30 Boylston Street, Cambridge, Mass. Manuscripts intended for publication, books, and pamphlets for review, and all exchanges, should be sent, as heretofore, to the Editor, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, N. Y.

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., beginning on the evening of November 12, 1900. The evening session will be for the election of officers and members and the transaction of the usual routine business. Tuesday and the following days, the sessions will be for the presentation and discussion of scientific papers, and will be open to the public. Members intending to present communications are requested to forward the titles of their papers to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland Conn., so as to reach him not later than November 8. The sessions will doubtless be held in one of the lecture halls of the University Museum.

In connection with this Congress of the Union it is proposed to hold a conference of representatives of the Audubon Societies, who will be sent as authorized representatives of their respective Societies, for the purpose of establishing a closer relationship between the Societies and the Union, and to consider ways and means for the more systematic prosecution of the work of the Societies.

MR. CHARLES C. MARBLE, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Chicago, September 25, 1900, of heart disease, at the age of 52 years. Mr. Marble was until recently editor of the illustrated magazine 'Birds,' so well known as a popular magazine of ornithology. He was a native of Ohio and moved to Chicago in 1893.

AS DOUBTLESS known to many of our readers, Mr. Robert Ridgway has been engaged for some time in the preparation of a work on 'The Birds of North and Middle America,' the first volume of which is now ready for the printer. In reference to this, doubtless the most important work on American birds ever undertaken, we are permitted to give the following interesting information, kindly furnished at our request by Dr. Charles W. Richmond:

In September, 1894, Mr. Ridgway undertook, by direction of the Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the preparation of a treatise

on the ornithology of North and Middle America, and now, after six years of preliminary work, the first volume is ready for the printer, and has been placed in the hands of the publication committee of the National Museum.

The work is based mainly on the collections of the U. S. National Museum, but much additional material has been consulted in the large museums and private collections throughout the country. It will probably run through seven octavo volumes, of about 600 pages each.

About 3000 species and subspecies will be dealt with, accompanied by full descriptions, to which will be added the geographical distribution and synonymy of each. The synonymy, already completed, has been compiled with great care, special pains having been taken to verify each reference, giving the exact orthography of the original citation, and no references have been included which do not deal with some important fact in the distribution, life history, or status of the species. The type locality and location of the type of each species will be given, when known.

The general plan of the work will be similar to that of the recently published 'Fishes of North and Middle America,' by Jordan and Evermann; but owing to the more extensive literature of birds the synonymy will be of greater length.

Keys will be given for families, genera, and species, including all extralimital American families; in the case of genera and species extralimital members will be included only when few in number, when a brief synonymy will be given in footnotes.

Outline drawings of generic details of all genera included in the work will be given, similar to those in the author's 'Manual.' The geographical limits will be the entire continent of North America down to the southern extremity of the Isthmus of Panama, including the West Indies, isolated Caribbean islands, and Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire; also the Galapagos group.

The second volume is well under way, and will be ready for the printer about the end of the year. Much progress has been made on the remainder of the work, such as the synonymy, keys to families, sequence of subjects, etc., and it is expected that volumes will be completed at the rate of about one a year.

R. H. PORTER, the well known London publisher, announces as ready for publication an important work by Richard M. Barrington, entitled, 'The Migration of Birds as observed at Irish Lighthouses and Lightships, including the Original Reports from 1888-97, now published for the first time, and an Analysis of these and of the previously published Reports from 1881-87. Together with an Appendix giving the measurements of about 1600 Wings.' The work will form a thick octavo volume of 980 pages, and the edition will be limited to 350 copies. The price will be 25s net.

WE ARE glad to be able to announce that the second volume of the late Dr. Stark's 'Birds of South Africa' (R. H. Porter, London) is being prepared for publication by Mr. W. L. Sclater, from materials gathered by Dr. Stark. As shown by our notice of the first volume (Auk, XVII, pp. 190, 191), the work is a most important contribution to the ornithology of South Africa.

The same publisher will also soon bring out the second part of Volume II of G. E. Shelley's 'Birds of Africa,' thus completing the work, of which Volume I appeared in 1896, and Part I of Volume II in 1900. An extended notice of this important work will be given later.

A NEW work on 'The Birds of Ireland,' by Richard J. Ussher and Robert Warren, is announced by Gurney & Jackson (London), in one volume, demy octavo, of 450 pages, with 7 plates, 2 maps and other illustrations. Price, £1 10s. Special attention is given to the distribution of each species in Ireland, and also to its seasonal movements within the Island.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, Sydney, will soon issue, as 'Monograph No. II,' the 'Catalogue of Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Australia,' by Mr. Alfred J. North, Ornithologist to the Australian Museum. This work was first published by the Trustees of the Australian Museum in 1889 as No. XII of their series of 'Catalogues,' but being now out of print, the Trustees have decided to issue a new work in an enlarged form by the same author. There will be representations of about 600 eggs on 30 full-sized plates and arrangements are being made to have them hand-colored for those who desire it.

Some of the nests and breeding haunts of the birds will also be shown on full-sized plates, but the greater number will be interspersed among the text, where also a large number of the birds themselves will be figured. The photographs, from which the plates representing the nests are made, have mostly been taken by the author personally, many of them *in situ*, and show the actual surroundings of the birds' homes. The black and white drawings of the birds are by Mr. Neville Cayley, so well known for his life-like drawings and paintings of birds. The letterpress will contain descriptions of the birds, their nests, eggs and haunts, and an account of their life history. The preparation of the plates is now well advanced. The work will be issued in parts, and the price to subscribers will probably not exceed 25s. for the complete work uncolored. Orders may be sent to the Librarian of the Australian Museum, Sydney, N. S. W., or to Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., London, "or any Booksellers."

THOSE interested in the sanitation of birds' nests will find an interesting communication in the magazine 'Knowledge' for March, 1900 (p. 66), by Mr. Harry F. Witherby, entitled 'Mistle Thrush swallowing Droppings of Young.'